

Route 50 Corridor Task Force January 13, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The scheduled Route 50 Task Force meeting was held in the Middleburg Town hall on January 13, 2009.

Attendees

Those in attendance were:

- Jim Rich – Co-Chair
- Susan Van Wagoner – Route 50 Coalition
- Childs Burden – Middleburg
- Betsy Davis – Mayor of Middleburg
- Jim Burton – Member of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

VDOT attendees:

- Jim Zeller, PE – Preliminary Engineering/Leesburg
- Gaby Hakim – Maintenance/Leesburg
- Ken Connors, PE – Construction/Manassas
- Kenny Robinson – Project Manager/Rte 50
- John Lynch – NOVA District Construction Engineer

Other Attendees:

- John Stuart – H W Lochner Engineering
- Several Route 50 residents

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Jim Rich at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the November 2008 meeting were reviewed. Moved and seconded they be accepted.

Financial Report

Mr. Robinson provided attendees the Route 50 January Financial Report. Mr. Robinson explained all the costs associated with Upperville, Aldie and Gilberts Corners projects. Since the November meeting, Mr. Robinson has met with Karen Consiglio, previous Route 50 Task Force project manager and gained a better understanding of how the Gilberts Corner project was budgeted. Both the Aldie and Gilberts Corner projects are on-budget.

Aldie

Lengthy discussion about the landscaping in Aldie and lessons learned from the Upperville project. It was recommended that additional time to review the plans in detail would occur after the regular meeting for those wishing to stay.

Mr. Robinson advised that some deed restrictions on the winery property (Parcel 66) are being reviewed by VDOT Environmental and Right of Way sections.

Discussion about the imprint material and patterns, the Task Force would like to see some of the imprint material in front of the post office moved to the project entrances

near the dry stack wall features. Minimize noise is a priority for VDOT and the Task Force.

The Task Force asked about progress getting the ditch line chevrons removed near the Aldie Post Office. Mr. Robinson advised that according to NOVA Traffic Engineering section that the signs cannot be removed at this time due to the depth of the ditch. Jim Zeller from the Leesburg Residency has advised Mr. Robinson of a top slot drainage pipe that has been used successfully in Loudoun County at two locations. Mr. Robinson is scheduled to meet with the VDOT crew that oversaw those installations and will be looking at the feasibility and cost. Susan Van Wagoner has performed some internet searches and believes that VDOT could install smaller signs than are currently in place.

The Task Force discussed the weigh station located at the Route 50 & 15 intersection and will be sending a letter to Richmond and other elected officials stressing the need to not close the weigh station.

Gilberts Corner

Discussion about progress on the roundabouts, the traffic detours will not occur until spring.

Following contact to Verizon by Congressman Wolf's office utility relocation by Verizon has started and progress is helping the project move forward at Watson Road and Roundabout #4 on Route 15. The Task Force will be contacting Congressman Wolf to thank him for his intervention.

Roundabout #2 is about 80 percent complete, Roundabout #4 is about 30 percent complete and the connector road is about 85 percent complete at this time.

At the November 2008 Route 50 Task Force meeting it was decided that the Task Force would make a recommendation on the Roundabout names as follows:

1. Roundabout #1 at the Route 50/15 intersections – Gilberts Corner Roundabout
2. Roundabout #2 on Route 50 East of Rte 50/15 intersection – Wolf Roundabout
3. Roundabout #3 Route 50 at Watson Road intersection – Mount Zion Roundabout
4. Roundabout #4 Route 15 South of Rte 50/15 intersection – Warner Roundabout

The Connector Road has already been named Howsers Branch Road by Loudoun County.

Mr. Rich advised the Task Force that Congressman Wolf is appreciative of the honor but would prefer to not seek the attention and notoriety of having the roundabout named for him.

The Task Force asked if the contractor could install some additional signage, barrels and cones at Roundabout #2 to help with traffic movements.

Mr. Robinson was asked to explain the two detours that will occur this spring on Routes 50 and 15. Mr. Robinson discussed how the detours would be accomplished and answered questions from the attendees.

Upperville

Mr. Robinson was asked to when the post construction speed study would be performed at Upperville. VDOT will wait until at least six months after construction was completed. The Upperville project was completed in mid October 2008 and will look at performing a post-construction speed study in the spring/summer 2009.

Middleburg

The mayor requested that VDOT consider the addition of another crosswalk mid-block near the Middleburg Post Office.

The town would also like to discuss getting a permit to install lighting to the town's entrance signs.

Route 50 Corridor - Roadway Maintenance

Gaby Hakim, Leesburg Assistant Residency Administrator for Maintenance was introduced to the Route 50 Task Force. Mr. Hakim explained his plans for completing the shoulder work outlined the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding. VDOT will place a stone/soil blend along all the shoulders repaved in 2008 and seed with grass up to the new paved shoulders.

Mr. Hakim will also keep the Task Force informed of paving and other maintenance work scheduled for Route 50 during 2009.

New Issues

Mr. Robinson shared with the attendees some of VDOT's Inauguration Traffic Plans and answered questions.

Future meeting

The next meeting date is set for February 10, 2009, at the Middleburg Town Hall, 4:30 PM.

Aldie – Landscaping plans

After the meeting was adjourned, John Stuart, Ken Robinson and other VDOT staff remained and met with interested citizens and Task Force members. Those that remained reviewed each page and every landscaping feature on the plans. The attendees provided many comments and recommendations.

H.W. Lochner and VDOT will meet with the landscape architects involved in designing and reviewing the plans to present comments and recommendations regarding the landscaping features.